



Australian Church Partner News

Meet Darusila Involved in Micro Finance in PNG

(Relief & Development)

Darusila* lives with her family in Kavieng, the main town of PNG's New Ireland Province. With a PGK 360 (approx AUD150) micro finance loan from the AusAID funded PNG Church Partnership Program Micro Finance Project she started a small textiles value adding business that specialises in buying plane fabric and dyeing patterns that are popular in the local market. The printed fabrics are typically used as laplaps or used to make the locally popular 'meri blouse'. The success of this small business enabled her to pay back the loan within a year, thus making the funds available to lend to other women who are seeking micro credit loans to start up their own small business enterprises.

Darusila is so convinced of the benefits of the micro finance program that she is the treasurer for the program in her province and assists in running micro credit training courses for women in more remote areas of the province

* name changed to protect privacy



Energized through Relationship

"I can honestly say our church may never be the same again. Many of us are feeling enormous euphoria over this visit. Thank God for this ministry." Ian Parkin, Castle Hill Uniting Church What has this church been up to evoke such a reaction?

When Castle Hill started to look at partnering with Paama Seaside congregation, Vanuatu, they were keen, but lacking direction and focus. Bruce Mullan (Associate Director, Church Solidarity – Pacific) suggested that they raise money to host two youth group members from Paama to attend NCYC. Castle Hill decided to stage a concert, showcasing some of the amazing talent from within their congregation. They decorated with an island theme and raised enough money to support Ben and Kenneth's trip to Australia.



The pair from Vanuatu spent their first week at NCYC and then a week in Castle Hill with members of the congregation. In that time they shared stories of life in Vanuatu and the challenges they face. They lead worship and created lasting friendships.

"It was a great time for all of us and the beginning of hopefully a life time of friendship with the young men." Jennifer Sanders

The congregation is now bursting with enthusiasm. In February they hosted Elder Johnny to learn more of the hopes and dreams of Paama Seaside and how they can best partner them. A group of young people from Castle Hill are now keen to visit Vanuatu and have already had a preliminary meeting with the Experience team at UnitingWorld to find out the next steps towards making that a reality.

Vanuatu Eye Clinics

Our second volunteer medical team has just left for Vanuatu and this week will begin eye clinic tours in some of the remote islands there. We ask that you pray for this team and the people they will be treating. We give thanks to God for the opportunity to be part of bringing precious sight back to the people in this region.

The Methodist Church in Fiji

The Methodist Church in Fiji and Rotuma has announced the plans for their one Day Conference which will start on August 23rd. They have not been allowed to meet for the past three years and the key leadership positions will be up for election. They hope to meet for three days (24 hours spread out). Please to pray for them as they request a permit under the Public Emergency Regulations that will allow the Conference to go ahead.

John Barr (Church Solidarity)

John Barr has just returned from West Papua and reports:

Things went well in West Papua. A lot is going on. To read more about John's trip, go to John's blog at: <http://unitingworld.org.au/blogs/blog/2011/07/14/stop-enough-voilence-against-women-in-west-papua/>

